MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. 301 SOUTH CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Property Name: Mt. Carmel Monastery Survey No.: NR-207; CH-52 (PAGS C15)

Property Address 5678 Mt. Carmel Road, La Plata, Charles County	
Owner Name/Address Discaled Carmelites of Maryland, Inc. P.O. Box 176, La Plata, MD 20646	
	Year Built circa 1790

Description:

Mt. Carmel Monastery was previously surveyed by the Maryland Historical Trust in May 1973 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There have been no changes to the 1790 chapel since the time of the survey. The brick chapel mentioned in the survey form was not observed. Several associated buildings exist which were not mentioned in the previous survey. A 3-bay, 1½-story brick chapel constructed in 1954 is located a short distance northwest of the 1790 chapel. Two 1-story front-gable cottages, constructed circa 1930, are located east of the two chapels. A complex of buildings constructed circa 1985 is located north and east of the chapel. The buildings, which are of wood-frame construction with gable roofs, are located behind a wood fence and are not accessible to the public.

National Register Evaluation:

The Mt. Carmel Monastery Chapel (NR-207), constructed circa 1790, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The National Register boundaries of Mt. Carmel Monastery Chapel follow the current property lines of 5678 Mt. Carmel Road (Charles County Tax Map 32, Parcel 153). This 4.58 hectare (11.32 acre) parcel is bounded all sides by adjacent tax parcels. The boundary includes the chapel and the non-contributing cottages, chapel, and cloister. The parcel is part of the land historically associated with the Monastery.

MHT CONCURRENCE: Eligibility recommended not recommended Criteria A B C D Considerations Comments:	_A _	_в_	c _	D	E	F	_G _	None
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date		Review	er, NR	progra	ım		D	ate

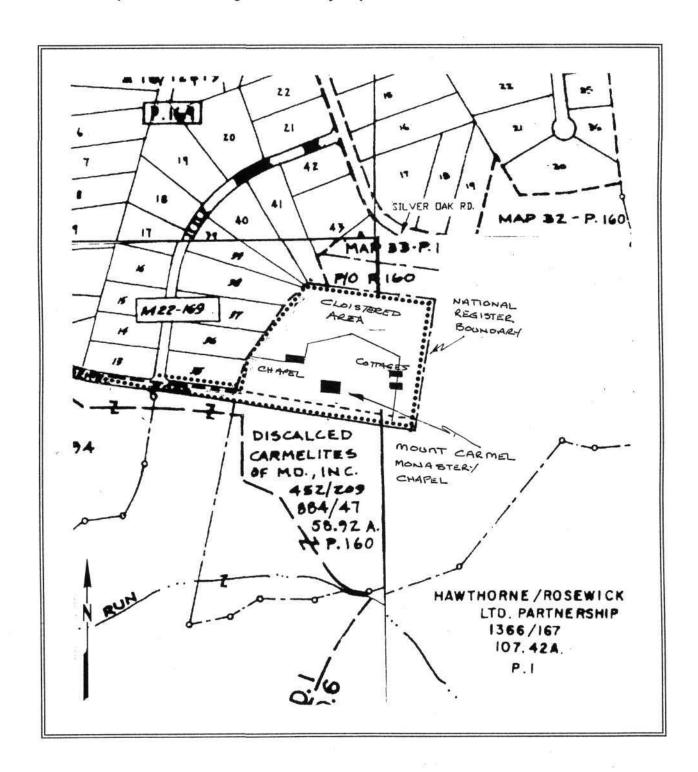
Preparer: P.A.C. Spero & Company September 1996

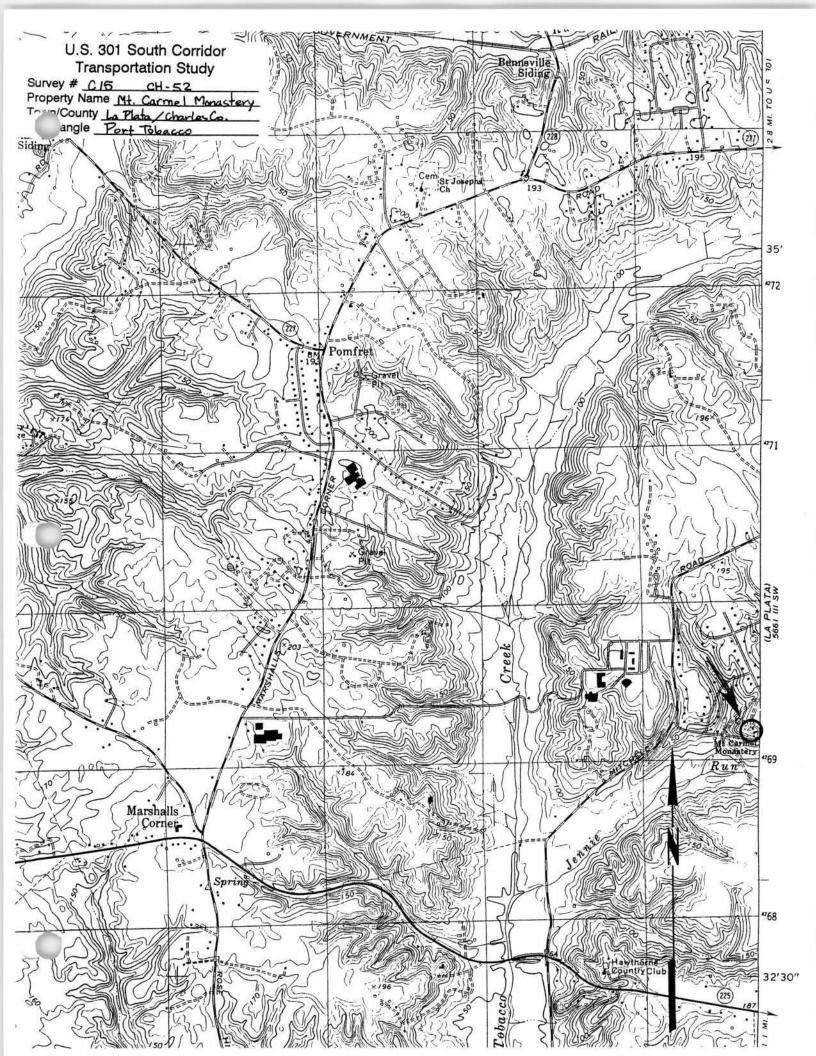
Property Name: Mt. Carmel Monastery Survey No.: NR-297; CH-52 (PACS-C15)

Property Address 5678 Mt. Carmel Road, La Plata, Charles County
Owner Name/Address Discaled Carmelites of Maryland, Inc. P.O. Box 176, La Plata, MD 20646

Year Built circa 1790

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:







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Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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Mt. Carmel is situated on Mt. Carmel Road, South side of Mitchell Road, approximately 2 1/2 miles west of U. S. route 301 south, 2 miles north of La Plata, Maryland.

The earliest building now standing at Mt. Carmel is a two part frame house, known as "the Monastery." The main block, built circa 1790 and restored in 1936-37, consists of a two story structure with a moderately pitched "A" frame roof. It is three bays in length with the main entrance door of both facade elevations (north and south) occupying the first bay from the west end. At the east end stands a single exterior chimney with a free standing stack. The exterior doors are of vertical planks, each having a wood stoop with simple railings. First floor window openings frame sash of 9/9 panes while those windows of the second floor frame sash of 6/6 panes. The exterior sheathing is of random width beaded boards (1936-1937) over the brick nogged structural framing.

The base of the east end chimney is now enclosed within a very small, one bay, frame hyphen which connects the main block with a one story, four bay frame wing. This portion of the house is said to predate that part previously discussed but if this is true it does so by only a few years. At its principal (north) facade the main entrance door occupies the third bay from the east corner. It is also of batten design. The three windows are of 9/9 pane sash. The exterior walls were, like the main block, sheathed with random width beaded boards at the time of the 1936-37 re-The roof is of an "A" frame plan and, is again like the main block, covered with slate shingles. Both parts of the house were restored following their "discovery" in 1933 in a nearly ruinous condition. The entire house, devoid of any extraneous ornamentation, reflects the austerity of the life of the Carmelite nuns who are believed to have used this house as their residence. The interior of the house remains unfinished but has been partially furnished as a museum that physically documents the manner in which the Carmelite nuns lived and worked.

A short distance from the north-east corner of the house stands a small brick chapel designed in 1936-37 by architect Philip H. Frohman and built the same year. It was constructed on what is believed to have been the site of the original convent chapel and is simple in plan. A small 19th century cemetery is situated east of the church.

The once serene hill top site of Mt. Carmel is now seriously threatened by the expansion of a nearby housing development unfortunately known as Mt. Carmel Estates.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mt. Carmel Monastery was founded on October 15, 1790 by four Beligum Carmelite nuns, three of them former natives of Charles County. Departing from Beligum in May, 1790, they arrived at nearby Port Tobacco through the assistance of Bishop Carroll and Father Charles Neale, S. J. On arrival they set up a temporary residence at Chandler's Hope, the family home of Father Neale. By October 15, 1970 Father Neale had negotiated for the purchase of the present Mt. Carmel lands and the nuns transferred their residency to that property. The Mt. Carmel property was a part of a tract of land granted in the mid-17th century to Baker Brooke, a politically active figure, loyal to the Calvert family during Fendall's Rebellion of 1659-1660. Brooke's home reputedly stood on the part of the property that became the Monastary that burned, along with several other structures, in early 19th century circa(1800-1815).

Besides the Monastery building remaining on the Mt. Carmel tract the Carmelite nuns built several others including another residence, a chapel and a school as well as numerous domestic dependencies. The farm became largely self-sufficient through the efforts of these pioneer religious women and the parishoners they helped to serve.

However, in the early 19th century a fire destroyed several important buildings and the farm and school became increasingly difficult to maintain. In 1831 the Carmelite nuns then in residence were ordered to transfer the convent to Baltimore City, Maryland and the Mt. Carmel property in Charles County was abandoned.

In 1933 several native Charles countians launched an investigation into the history and precise location of the original convent and through their efforts the two remaining buildings then teranted and fallen into disrepair, were discovered and an organization, called the Restorers of Mt. Carmel in Maryland, formed to aid in the restoration of the site. The

(see continuation sheet)

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Mt. Carmel Monastery

No. 8. Significance Continued.

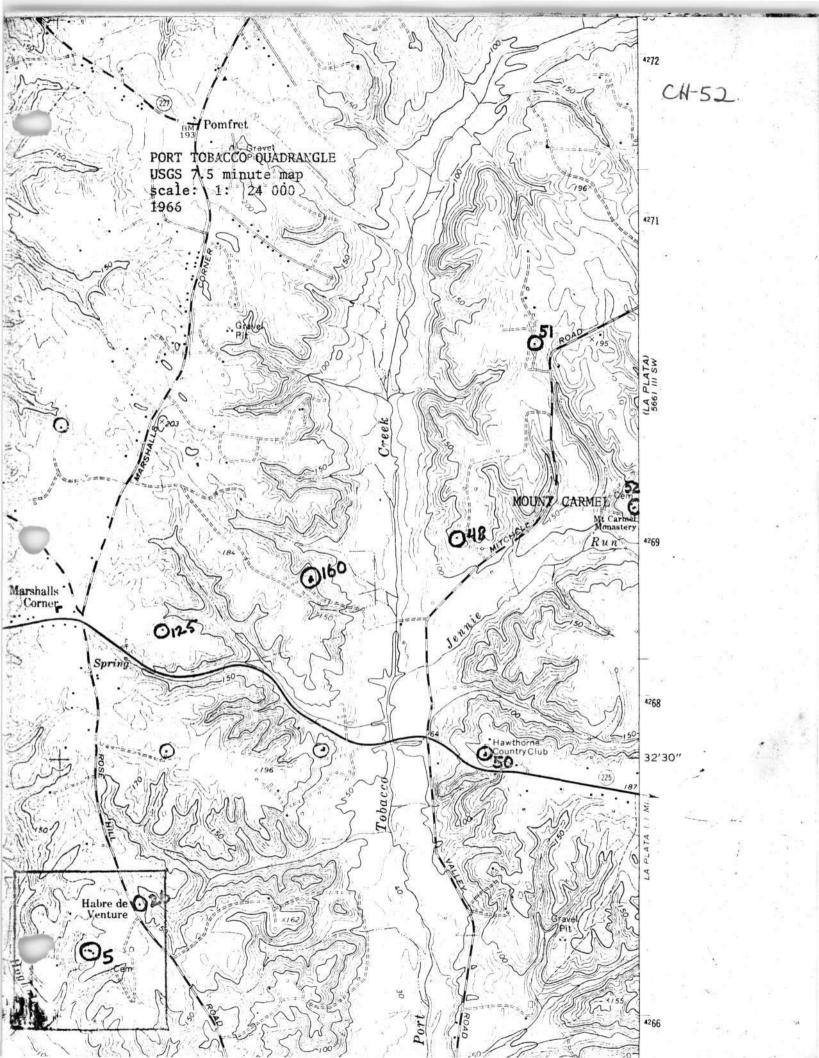
restoration of the remaining buildings and the design for the new chapel was prepared by Philip Hubert Frohman, an architect of the Washington Cathedral. The buildings and immediate grounds are now beautifully maintained, and yearly pilgrimages as well as special religious services are held there throughout the year.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Restorers of Mt. Carmel in Maryland. Habs Data Forms prepared. n.d. Maryland Historical Trust files, Annapolis, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown and Brown, Paul D., History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata, Charles County Tercentenary Commission. 1958.

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Mt. Carmel is situated on Mt. Carmel Road, south side of Mitchell Road, approximately 2 1/2 miles west of U.S. Route 301 south, 2 miles north of La Plata, Maryland.

The earliest building now standing at Mt. Carmel is a two part frame house, known as "the Monastery." The main block, built circa 1790 and restored in 1936-37, consists of a two story structure with a moderately pitched "A" frame roof. It is three bays in length with the main entrance door of both facade elevations (north and south) occupying the first bay from the west end. At the east end stands a single exterior chimney with a free standing stack. The exterior doors are of vertical planks, each having a wood stoop with simple railings. First floor window openings frame sash of 9/9 panes while those windows of the second floor frame sash of 6/6 panes. The exterior sheathing is of random width beaded boards (1936-1937) over the brick nogged structural framing.

The base of the east end chimney is now enclosed within a very small, one bay, frame hyphen which connects the main block with a one story, four bay frame wing. This portion of the house is said to predate that part previously discussed but if this is true it does so by only a few years. At its principal (north) facade the main entrance door occupies the third bay from the east corner. It is also of batten design. The three windows are of 9/9 pane sash. exterior walls were, like the main block, sheathed with random width beaded boards at the time of the 1936-37 restoration. The roof is of an "A" frame plan and, is again like the main block, covered with slate shingles. Both parts of the house were restored following their "discovery" in 1933 in a nearly ruinous condition. The entire house, devoid of any extraneous ornamentation, reflects the austerity of the life of the Carmelite nuns who are believed to have used this house as their residence. The interior of the house remains unfinished but has been partially furnished as a museum that physically documents the manner in which the Carmelite nuns lived and worked.

A short distance from the north-east corner of the house stands a small brick chapel designed in 1936-37 by architect Philip H. Frohman and built the same year. It was constructed on what is believed to have been the site of the original Convent chapel and is simple in plan. A small 19th century cemetery is situated east of the church.

The once serene hill top site of Mt. Carmel is now seriously threatened by the expansion of a nearby housing development unfortunately known as Mt. Carmel Estates.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mt. Carmel Monastery was founded on October 15, 1790, by four Beligum Carmelite nuns, three of them former natives of Charles County. Departing from Beligum in May, 1790, they arrived at nearby Port Tobacco through the assistance of Bishop Carroll and Father Charles Neale, S. J. On arrival they set up a temporary residence at Chandler's Hope, the family home of Father Neale. By October 15, 1790, Father Neale had negotiated for the purchase of the present Mt. Carmel lands and the nuns transferred their residency to that property. The Mt. Carmel property was a part of a tract of land granted in the mid-17th century to Baker Brooke, a politically active figure, loyal to the Calvert family during Fendall's Rebellion of 1659-1660. Brooke's home reputedly stood on the part of the property that became the Monastery that burned, along with several other structures, in early 19th century (circa 1800-1815).

Besides the Monastery building remaining on the Mt. Carmel tract the Carmelite nuns built several others including another residence, a chapel, and a school as well as numerous domestic dependencies. The farm became largely self-sufficient through the efforts of these pioneer religious women and the parishoners they helped to serve.

However, in the early 19th century a fire destroyed several important buildings and the farm and school became increasingly difficult to maintain. In 1831 the Carmelite nuns then in residence were ordered to transfer the convent to Baltimore City, Maryland and the Mt. Carmel property in Charles County was abandoned.

In 1933 several native Charles countians launched an investigation into the history and precise location of the original convent and through their efforts the two remaining buildings then tenanted and fallen into disrepair, were discovered and an organization, called the Restorers of Mt. Carmel in Maryland, formed to aid in the restoration of the site. The

(See continuation sheet)

7. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Restorers of Mt. Carmel in Maryland. Habs Data Forms prepared. n.d. Maryland Historical Trust files, Annapolis, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown and Brown, Paul D., History of Charles
County, Maryland. La Plata, Charles County Tercentenary
Commission. 1958.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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Mt. Carmel Monastery

No. 8. Significance Continued.

restoration of the remaining buildings and the design for the new chapel was prepared by Philip Hubert Frohman, an architect of the Washington Cathedral. The buildings and immediate grounds are now beautifully maintained, and yearly pilgrimages as well as special religious services are held there throughout the year.

FORM 10-301 A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CH-52

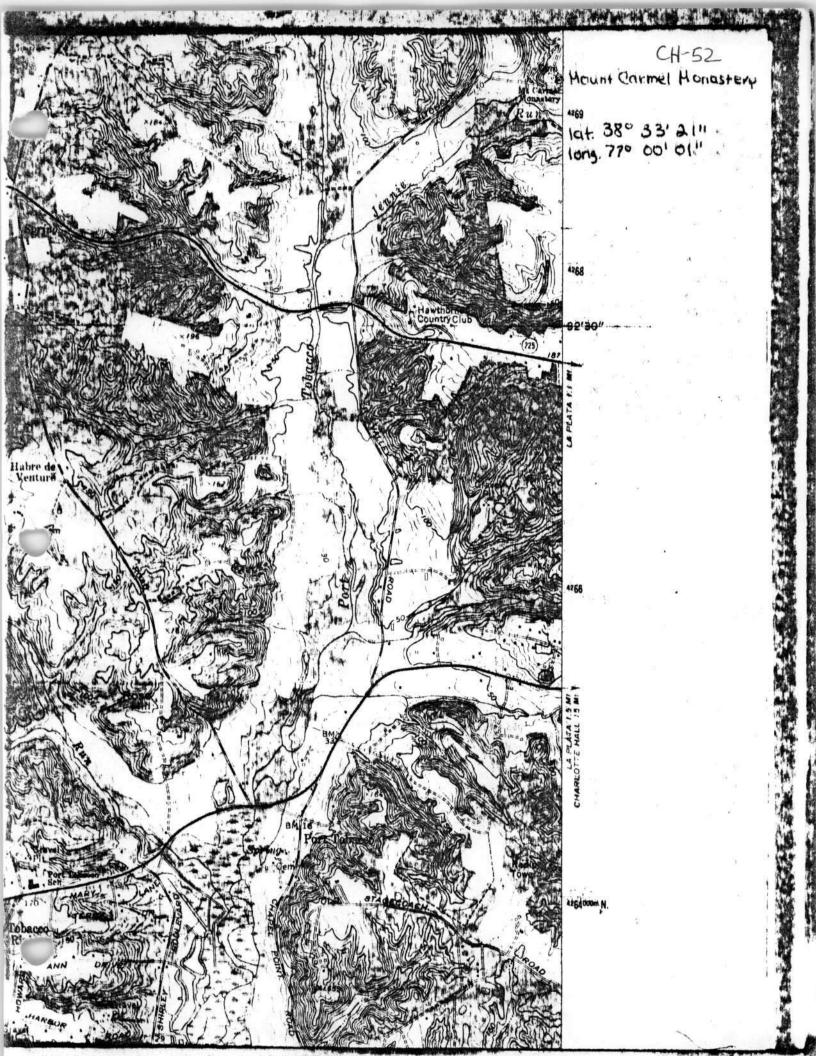
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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